

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A surgical cutting system. The cutting system includes a cutter which has an inner sleeve that moves adjacent to an aspiration port of an outer sleeve. The inner sleeve is coupled to a source of vacuum that pulls tissue into the outer port when the inner sleeve is moved away from the port. The inner sleeve then moves across the outer port and severs the tissue in a guillotine fashion. The tip of the inner sleeve may exert a spring force that assist in the cutting action of the cutter. The cutter includes a motor which creates an oscillating translational movement of the sleeve. The motor can be controlled by a controller that is coupled to a foot pedal. The foot pedal and controller can be configured so that the motor decreases speed as the pedal is depressed by the operator. The inner sleeve is coupled to an aspiration line that pulls the severed tissue out of the cutter.

The level of the aspiration vacuum pressure can be controlled by a variable regulator valve. The regulator valve is coupled to the controller and the foot pedal. The foot pedal may have a switch that allows the system to operate in either a variable speed mode or a variable pressure mode. In the variable speed mode the actuation of the foot pedal changes the speed of the motor. In the variable pressure mode the

actuation of the foot pedal changes the vacuum level  
within the aspiration line.